

intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(f) **STAFF QUALIFICATIONS.**—Any person appointed to the staff of or employed by the Commission shall be an individual of integrity and impartiality.

(g) **CONDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission may offer employment on a conditional basis to a prospective employee pending the completion of any necessary security clearance background investigation. During the pendency of any such investigation, the Commission shall ensure that such conditional employee is not given and does not have access to or responsibility involving classified or otherwise restricted material.

(2) **TERMINATION.**—If a person hired on a conditional basis as described in paragraph (1) is denied or otherwise does not qualify for all security clearances necessary for the fulfillment of the responsibilities of that person as an employee of the Commission, the Commission shall immediately terminate the employment of that person with the Commission.

(h) **EXPEDITED SECURITY CLEARANCE PROCEDURES.**—A candidate for executive director or deputy executive director of the Commission and any potential employee of the Commission shall, to the maximum extent possible, be investigated or otherwise evaluated for and granted, if applicable, any necessary security clearances on an expedited basis.

SEC. 6. SUPPORT SERVICES.

During the 180-day period following the date of enactment of this Act, the General Services Administration shall provide administrative support services (including offices and equipment) for the Commission.

SEC. 7. TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.

The Commission shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits its final report under section 3.

SEC. 8. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(a) **INAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) does not apply to the Commission.

(b) **PUBLIC ATTENDANCE.**—To the maximum extent practicable, each meeting of the Commission shall be open to members of the public.

SEC. 9. FUNDING OF COMMISSION.

Notwithstanding section 1346 of title 31, United States Code, or section 611 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 1998, of funds made available for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 to the Departments of Justice, State, and any other appropriate agency that are otherwise unobligated, not more than \$3,500,000 shall be available for the interagency funding of activities of the Commission under this Act. Funds made available to the Commission pursuant to this section shall remain available for obligation until December 31, 1999.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Friday, May 1, 1998 beginning at 9 a.m. in room 215 Dickson.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, the amendment I added to the conference version of the 1998 Supplemental Spending Bill deals with how oil is valued for the purpose of collecting royalties. This is not about royalty rates, but rather how that value is established.

Under the Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Act and the Minerals Leasing Act, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) is required to value the oil where it is removed from the ground. The MMS wants, instead, to value the oil after the industry has added significantly to its value (through marketing and transportation costs). Such a change would have the effect of increasing the tax collected on any set amount of oil at a time when the oil prices are at an all time low. The economy and jobs will be affected by such an arbitrary increase in costs. And finally, the MMS wants to make this change in the law through regulation. Mr. President, changing the law is the job of Congress, not the MMS.

My amendment prohibits the MMS from implementing this proposed change next month and prohibits the agency from acting before the end of the current fiscal year. This will give Congress time to weigh in on this matter, instead of letting the MMS arbitrarily change the law through the exercise of its rule-making authority.

Last year, this Congress, in the FY 1998 Interior Appropriations Bill specifically directed MMS to report back to the committees prior to finalizing the new regulations after numerous members expressed concern. MMS has ignored this direction, and neither the Energy and Natural Resources Committee nor the Appropriations Committee was notified that MMS proposed to finalize the new rule this June.

I support a valuation program that ensures the state and national governments receive all royalties due to them while maintaining fundamental principles of equity. I support the MMS in its efforts to simplify the valuation system and collect the government's fair share. However, it cannot be done at in a manner that changes federal law. •

WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, on May 2-4, 1998, more than 1200 students from across the nation will be in Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. I am proud to announce that a class from Lahainaluna High School from Lahaina, Maui will represent the State of Hawaii. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals by winning competitions in their home state.

The distinguished students representing Hawaii are: Iao Eisenberg, Tiffany Fujiwara, Jasmine Hentz, Erin Lockhart, William Myers, Leah Nakamura, Ryan Ott, Michael Prieto, Julie Reed, Sal Saribay, Justin Serrano, Jeffrey Shelton, Yee Ning Tay, Kerry Tsubaki.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Ms. Ruth Hill, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the class. The district coordinator, Ms. Jane Kinoshita, also contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help these students reach the national finals.

The We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing whereby students are given the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary constitutional issues. The simulated congressional hearing consists of oral presentations by the students before panels of adult judges.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People . . . program, has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 75,000 teachers and 24 million students nationwide. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers.

The We the People . . . program is designed to help students achieve a reasoned commitment to the fundamental values and principals that bind Americans together as a people. The program also fosters civic dispositions or traits of public and private character conducive to effective and responsible participation in politics and government.

I wish to extend my best wishes to these constitutional scholars in the upcoming We the People . . . national finals and commend them for their great achievement of reaching this level of competition. •

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

• Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, April 30, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,499,894,559,513.94 (Five trillion, four hundred ninety-nine billion, eight hundred ninety-four million, five hundred fifty-nine thousand, five hundred thirty-four dollars and ninety-four cents).

One year ago, April 30, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,353,971,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-three billion, nine hundred seventy-one million).

Five years ago, April 30, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,254,084,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred fifty-four billion, eighty-four million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 30, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$457,063,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-seven billion, sixty-three million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,042,831,559,513.94 (Five trillion, forty-two billion, eight hundred thirty-one million, five hundred fifty-nine thousand, five hundred thirteen dollars and ninety-four cents) during the past 25 years.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO PENNY ABEGGLEN ON THE SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN NURSING

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I stand today to recognize a very special Montanan. Penny Abegglen has received the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing from the Department of Veterans Affairs. I am very proud that Penny's hard work and dedication to veterans is being recognized with this award.

The Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing is one of the highest honors for nursing, and Penny competed with 172 nurses from around the country for this award. Her work in opening a sleep lab at Fort Harrison, Montana, demonstrates initiative above and beyond the call of duty. It has saved Montana's veterans with sleep disorders from making long trips out-of-state to receive treatment.

Penny has worked hard to provide better care to patients and to make herself a better nurse. She should be very proud of her accomplishments and of their well-deserved recognition by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is a pleasure to let my colleagues and the American people know of the fine service Penny Abegglen has provided to Montana's veterans.●

"IT'S MY FIGHT, TOO"

● Mr. GREEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to women, men, and their families who are fighting the scourge of breast cancer. As many of my colleagues may remember, last Spring, I submitted S. Res. 85, with my fellow Senator from New Hampshire, recognizing the family and friends of breast cancer patients in the struggle to cope with this disease. The Senate passed my Resolution by unanimous consent and expressed their overwhelming support for individuals who provide strength and support for loved ones fighting breast cancer. I come to the floor today to again note the importance of this expression and to recognize a very important organization in my home state of New Hampshire that is spreading this message to breast cancer patients across the country.

The American Cancer Society estimates that in 1998, 178,700 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed among women in the United States and 1,600 cases will be diagnosed among men. These numbers more than

triple in size when you consider the family and friends who are also impacted by the disease. With each and every one of these cases comes family and friends who are looked upon to provide the caring and loving needed to overcome such a terrifying disease.

The Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation, in Dover, New Hampshire, has done an excellent job of expressing this notion to the people of New Hampshire and beyond. With their campaign titled, "It's My Fight, Too," the Foundation has let individuals afflicted with breast cancer know that they are not alone in their struggle. It is important for the family to understand that their feelings are shared by others in their same situation and that they should find strength in numbers.

Awareness campaigns like "It's My Fight Too," are extremely important to foster an environment where support for both the individual with breast cancer and their family and friends is encouraged. Awareness is the key to allowing people to understand and identify with those suffering around them. We can all, as community members, provide support and strength to those in need.

As Mother's Day approaches, the Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation will be holding their annual event to recognize the important women in our lives who may or may not be suffering from this disease but who never the less, need to know that breast cancer is not just a women's disease but a struggle that can be fought by all of us together. Their event, "Family and Friends Against Breast Cancer, It's My Fight Too, A Night of Hope, Song and Love" will bring people from across the Northeast together to express the same support the Senate expressed with the passage of S. Res. 85. I commend the efforts of the Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation and encourage organizations across the country follow their leadership and example.●

THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and to pay tribute to the commendable service its members offered our nation. Created by President Franklin Roosevelt on March 31, 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps had a profound impact on this nation, helping to sustain the United States through the depths of the Depression, and setting a precedent for other federal agencies to carry on the diverse missions of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Within days after his presidential inauguration, Franklin Roosevelt initiated plans for the Civilian Conservation Corps, citing the need for an organization that would provide jobs for hundreds of thousands unemployed young men ages 18 to 25. President Roosevelt declared that the Civilian Conservation Corps would "conserve

our precious natural resources and pay dividends to the present and future generations. More important, we can take a vast army of the unemployed out into healthful surroundings." The Civilian Conservation Corps' intention was not only to provide services to the United States but also to give the unemployed an opportunity to live in healthful surroundings with a steady pay, room, board, and clothing.

By July 1, 1933, a quarter of a million enrollees had enlisted in the Civilian Conservation Corps, making it the fastest large-scale mobilization of men in U.S. history. The enrollees enlisted for six months with the option to re-enroll for another six months or a maximum of two years. They worked forty-hour weeks and received thirty dollars a month. Each month, they required the men to send twenty-five dollars to their families to help them through the difficulties of the Depression. The Civilian Conservation Corps provided members with the opportunity to learn a new skill and allowed them to attend classes to further their education. More than 100,000 men were taught to read and write with the aid of the Civilian Conservation Corps's education classes.

The accomplishments the Civilian Conservation Corps achieved in its nine year existence are impressive. Historical areas in Jamestown, Williamsburg, Yorktown, Fredericksburg and Spotylvania were restored and developed by the Corps members. At the program's peak, there were over 500 Civilian Conservation Corps camps in national, state, and local parks. Civilian Conservation Corps workers cleared trails, built buildings and shelters, fought forest fires, planted trees, and made other improvements to parks in all the states, territories, and possessions. The three million men planted a total of 2.3 billion trees, spent 6.4 million days fighting forest fires and eradicated diseases and pests. These accomplishments contributed to the Civilian Conservation Corps' lasting environmental legacy. Today, agencies such as President Clinton's Americorps, the Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are continuing the tradition of the Civilian Conservation Corps by instilling a sense of value for our natural environment as well as for national service.

Communities across the country benefitted from the hard toil of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The camps helped local economies, bringing large numbers of consumers to the towns' stores and industries. More importantly, they aided the communities in times of crisis, searching for missing persons, fighting fires, and offering assistance to residents during snow and ice storms. The state of Connecticut received such services from the twenty forest camps located within the state during the peak of the Corps program.